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March 21, 1991
SJB-91-089

Dr. J. Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
NY, NY 10021-06399

Dear Josh:

Thank you for your recent note regarding the environmental problems associated with current adipic acid manufacture. As one might expect the current producers will find it more economical (at least in the short term) to deal with the specific pollution issue. Our muconic-based process would be competitive under the scenario that it was ready to go (already piloted in a several thousand gallon fermentor), at least equivalent economically and there was a need for a new plant (e.g. a rapidly expanding market). Unfortunately, these criteria are all unfavorable. Thanks for the thought anyway.

On other fronts we had a major setback last year when the pharmaceutical that our lead chiral amine intermediate was a building block for, was pulled from the market (liver toxicity-or just bad marketing). We regrouped and took advantage of the "generic" nature of the technology to start producing a variety of chiral amines. In addition, we are aggressively pursuing other chiral opportunities in the ethanolamine and nitrile areas. I've enclosed some product information.

Thanks again for thinking of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Sol J. Barer", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Sol J. Barer



SJB:pl

Enclosure